Listing of the Claims

1.   (Original) A frame structure comprising:
super-channel information.

2.   (Original) The frame structure of claim 1, wherein
said super-channel information comprises a super-channel identifier and said
super-channel identifier identifies a super-channel.

3.   (Original) The frame structure of claim 2, further comprising:
sub-channel information.

4.   (Original) The frame structure of claim 3, wherein said sub-channel
information comprises:
a sub-channel identifier, wherein said sub-channel identifier identifies a sub-
channel.

5.   (Original) The frame structure of claim 4, wherein said super-channel
information further comprises:
a sub-channel bitmap, wherein each bit in said sub-channel bitmap represents an
operational state of a corresponding sub-channel.

6.   (Original) The frame structure of claim 5, wherein said sub-channel
bitmap comprises:
a bit corresponding to an operational state of said sub-channel.

7.   (Original) The frame structure of claim 5, wherein said super-channel
information further comprises:
error condition flags, wherein said error condition flags include a forced/manual
switch flag.

8. (Original) The frame structure of claim 7, wherein said error condition flags further include a bit-error-rate flag, a loss-of-signal flag and a loss-of-frame flag.

9. (Original) The frame structure of claim 4, further comprising:
alternate super-channel information, wherein said super-channel information comprises an alternate super-channel identifier and said alternate super-channel identifier identifies an alternate super-channel.

10. (Original) The frame structure of claim 9, wherein
said super-channel information further comprises primary enable information, and said alternate super-channel information further comprises alternate enable information.

11. (Original) The frame structure of claim 10, wherein
primary enable information is configured to indicate if said super-channel is operational, and
alternate enable information is configured to indicate if said alternate super-channel is operational.

12. (Original) The frame structure of claim 10, wherein
primary enable information comprises primary LSP enable flags, and
alternate enable information comprises alternate LSP enable flags.

13. (Original) The frame structure of claim 12, wherein
said primary LSP enable flags and said alternate LSP enable flags are configured to indicate which of said super-channel and said alternate super-channel should carry an LSP.

14. (Original) The frame structure of claim 13, wherein
said primary LSP enable flags are configured to indicate if an LSP should be carried by said super-channel, and

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said alternate LSP enable flags are configured to indicate if said LSP should be carried by said alternate super-channel.

15. (Original) The frame structure of claim 10, wherein said super-channel information comprises:

a sub-channel bitmap, wherein each bit in said sub-channel bitmap represents an operational state of a corresponding sub-channel.

16. (Original) The frame structure of claim 15, wherein said sub-channel bitmap comprises:

a bit corresponding to an operational state of said sub-channel.

17. (Original) The frame structure of claim 15, wherein said super-channel information further comprises:

error condition flags, wherein said error condition flags include a forced/manual switch flag.

18. (Original) The frame structure of claim 4, further comprising:

sub-channel state information, wherein said sub-channel state information conveys a state of said sub-channel.

19. (Original) The frame structure of claim 18, wherein said sub-channel state information conveys a state of a connection between a far-end transmitter and a near-end receiver over said sub-channel.